

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

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Thursday, December 12. 1706.

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**H**aving in my last let you know, how *Scotland* has been impos'd upon, and the poor People drawn into wrong Notions and Apprehensions of the Affair of the Union now in Debate — I come next to let you see the Method, by which this black Design is carried on, and indeed I am in Hopes, it will recommend the Practice to no body, it has been so vile, so unseemly, so dishonest, and so scandalous.

The Particular, I point at among many other, is by dispersing scandalous Pamphlets and Papers, representing *England* in all the reproachful Colours imaginable, as a Nation not fit to be treated with, as a Nation that will be bound by no Conditions, as a Nation that is wheedling, bribing, and coaxing the *Scots* into the Snare of a Treaty, only to pull down their

Government, and then enslave them ; as a Nation that will encroach upon their Liberties, pull down their Church, and break in upon their Rights with all manner of Violence ; as a Nation so false, so wicked, so full of Blood, Debauchery, and all Manner of open Vices, that 'tis not fit for any civilized People to be concern'd with them, and the like.

And what is worst of all, and very strange to imagine ; all this comes from *ENGLAND*, printed in *England*, diligently sent from hence to *Scotland*, to be spread there among the poor People, to amuse and distract them, and to ripen them for that Disorder they hope to bring them into.

'Tis indeed very hard, that there should be found in *England* such Traytors to her own Character, to represent her in such a villainous

villainous Manner ; and let no Man blame me for laying open a Party, who on all Occasions seek our Confusions, when such Instances are to be given, which few Nations in the World can parallel. Men that live on the Bounty and Fruitfulness of the best Country in the World, enjoy the greatest Liberties and Privileges of any People in the World, as appears by their remaining unpunished, are govern'd by the gentlest and tenderest Sovereign in the World.

If it be said, the Authors are not Natives of *England*, but of *Scotland*, I must answer ; *First*, I believe that is not Fact, for that I know, some *English* are at the bottom of it all. *Secondly*, if they are not, the other are still the more inexcusable, since 'tis own'd, they live under the Influence of *England*, eat her Bread, and enjoy there the same Privileges and Protection with the Subjects of *England*. This therefore is adding Ingratitude to their other Crime, and returning ill for that good they receive there.

'Tis very hard for *England* to be thus treated by Vipers harbour'd in her Bosom, to whom she is kind and courteous, and from whom such Treatment has not been deserved by her ; and to which I hope, she may in time come to make the Return it deserves.

But as 'tis unkind, so which still aggravates the Mischief, 'tis false in Fact, scandalous in Design, and abhorrive in the Execution ; the things alledg'd being really false in Fact, and absurd in their Suggestion—

The Method, thus taken to divide the honest People in *Scotland*, seems to me a full Demonstration, that this is the last Card the *High-Church* Interest has to play. If they can carry this Point, if they can keep up the Heats in the Northern Part of *Brissain*, they think they may have once more a Turn for their Cause ; and if the Broil there should bring things into Confusion, they will then have some Hopes, their decay'd Cause may revive.

What else can the Meaning be, of what some have had Indiscretion enough already to boast of. viz. *That one Restoration has begun already in Scotland*. To them that understand that Way of delivering them-

selves, I think, the Case is very plain, and I cannot but pity the poor weak People ; who have been deluded with the Out-sides of things, with false Assertions, Suggestions, Possibilities, and all Sorts of Amulets, in order to bring them to Disorders and Confusions ; while the People, that thus animate them against their own Happiness, keep out of the Way themselves, and laying the Load on the Shoulders of the People, refuse to touch them with one of their Fingers.

What can be plainer than this ? when the poor ignorant People are posseſſ'd with such intolerable Jealousies, only for Want of knowing the Truth ; that many of them, when they have been better inform'd, and have come to examine the Truth of Fact, have blush'd for their being impos'd upon.

Nor have they been told these false things in private Discourse, but in Print— They have printed, and still print in the Face of the Government, and in Defiance of all Law and Authority, such horrid things as these.

That the *English* are not to be trusted, and will be bound by no Conditions. That the Treaty is an entire Surrender of all their Rights and Freedoms to the Mercy of the *English*.

That their Church is given up to the Power of the *English*, and they may restore Episcopacy at Pleasure.

That their Trade will be ruin'd and undone.

That their Taxes will be intolerable, and that they shall be oblig'd to pay the *English* Debts.

That the Tax on their Salt is 10 s. per Bushel.

That the Tax on two-penny Ale, which is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  per *English* Quart, is to be 4 s. 9 d. per Barrel.

That the Draw-backs upon Salt are Cheats and Fictions, and not fairly represented, and Abundance of such things as these, in order to terrifie and distract the People ; and the Effect is but too plain there, the Poison has spread too far—But not so far ; but that in *England* 'tis reported to have spread much farther than it has ; and thus

thus the Project has a double Design, two Handles, and one will serve *England*, the other *Scotland*.

For this End, tho' I do not justify any of the Follies of the *Scots* in this Affair, yet I think, it cannot but be useful to open the Eyes of the People in *England*; that they may not be impos'd upon to believe things and People, worse than they really are.

In my next, I shall enter upon some of those Abuses put upon the World in the publick Papers, and perhaps say something of what has already been said in another Place, in order to confute them; that when the Plot is discover'd, the Poison of it may be prevented.

## MISCELLANEA.

**A**ND what makes you vindicate the King of *Poland* now? Says one that sees me engag'd on that Head; why really, Gentlemen, only because I see his *Polish* Majesty doubly insulted upon the Occasion of the Peace, he has made with the *Swedes*.

To me it seems very odd, that we neither liked the War this King made, nor the Peace; 'tis the oddeſt Paſſage in the World, 'tis like the *Scots Presbyterians* in the *North*, who are not for the Union, and yet do not know what to do without it.

The Objections against the War were something strong, and very angry we were with the King of *Poland* for attacking the *Swedes*.—But upon what Principle can it be, that we are angry with the Peace?

To say 'tis dishonourable, is saying nothing; for the leſt Value we had for the King of *Poland*, the better we ought to be pleas'd with the Disadvantages he is under; to say it was wifely done, won't do, because our Gentlemen will by no Means hear of any thing wifely or handſom done by him.

Had this Prince, like the Elector of *Bavaria*, acted the Desperade, not listen'd to the frequent Calls of his own Difasters, but push'd all upon the Chance of War, even when there was no Chance left; had he abandon'd his Country, as the Prince of *Leige*, and obſtinateſſe cast away his Fortunes, would he have pleas'd you then? had he obtain'd any Reputation by it, or given you any better Opinion of him?

If not, 'tis very hard, you will neither let a Prince make Peace nor War; but

which way ſoever he goes, heap Scandal upon his Chara&ter; if the War was un-just, he is in the right on't to lay it down, even in your Senſe; if it was unfortunate, he is in the right on't to give it over in his own; ſo that by all the Rules by which you blam'd him before, you ought to approve him now. He has acted in the Peace like a Man of Prudence, in the War like a Man of Bravery; he has been his own General upon all Occasions. Tho' he has been oppreſſ'd with Power, he has never baulk'd any Opportunity of looking his Enemy in the Face. 'Tis no Difhonour to a Man of Conduct to be run down by more potent Powers than his own, nor have I ever heard any Person ſpeak the leaſt detracſing Word of his Conduct or Gallantry in the Field.

But the Mouth of Slander will always be open, and that Prince is yet to be born, whose Behaviour can please all Mankiud.

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